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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our late Spring Newsletter, one that gives a round up of some of the administrative matters following the successful AGM at Folkestone. To start with though, an apology for the rather abrupt ending to Newsletter 10 published just prior to the AGM. It *was* only a one-page Newsletter and was finished in such a hurry that it was not signed off at the end.

2. PUBLICATIONS & SALES STAND COVERS

At the AGM those Branches in attendance were able to collect copies of BR Standards Part 2 and Part Four of Great Northern Railway in the East Midlands. These were both delivered to Folkestone in time for the AGM and allowed Society Members/Branches to acquire copies before these were on general distribution. In fact BR Standards was not even in bound form on the Tuesday prior to the AGM so it gives you some idea of the timescale involved. (A brief glimpse through my copy suggests yet another excellent edition). Please order your Branch copiers through the normal channels.

Also available to Branches were the purpose made, fire retardant, cloth covers/drapes for your sales stand tables. These are being provided by the Society with each branch entitled to a maximum of three covers. Several branches collected either part or all of their allocation at Folkestone. The remainder currently reside with John Holroyd (West Riding Branch) who has agreed that any Branch wishing to arrange collection of their supply should ring him on 01274 582146 to agree a collection date/time. Please note that John is away from 16th to 26th May. Remember also that the Regional Meetings are fast approaching so it may be a worthwhile exercise for someone from your Regional Group Arranging to collect them and distribute at the RM's. If you know of any member of your Branch who travels around the Shipley area, this could be another fast-track source of collection. Please liase with John on this matter.

3. BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY ROLE

It is pleasing to announce that Gordon Davies [Merseyside, Chester & North Wales Branch] has agreed to assist yours truly with the administration of Regional Meetings. Gordon will see the process through in its entirety, from producing the Agenda, to the receipt and distribution of minutes and the collation of action points into the summary, again for distribution. As far as meetings go every effort will be made to get a Management Committee member to your Regional Meeting. We are indebted to Gordon for taking on this task at short notice and ask that you give Gordon your full support. See the Regional Meetings Agenda enclosed with this Newsletter for Gordon's address and telephone number. Gordon will be in communication with the Regional Group Chair shortly after you receive this notification.

4. MEMBERS WEEKEND 2003 - CHELTENHAM

Details will be published in the May R.O about the Railtours to be run in conjunction with Pathfinder Tours. Other activities are being planned for the weekend, and arrangements are being made for a visit on the Saturday 25th October to the Severn Valley Railway. Discussion is also taking place for a Sunday 26th October visit to the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway. With this in mind there is a need to look at the timescale for the day, especially relating to the Officers Conference scheduled to take place on the Sunday morning (see item 5 below).

5 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 26TH OCTOBER 2003

As mentioned previously, time will be at a premium for the Officers' Conference. Some thoughts which can help speed up the process is to have any Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2002 (Bristol) Officers' Conference to be advised in advance, in writing, so that these can be dealt with more speedily (See RM Agenda). Taking a leaf out of the AGM process, Officer's reports and any statistical analyses can be produced in advance and published to branches and delegates prior to the OC. This also would allow any responses to be prepared in advance.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

The 2004 Society AGM will be held in Coventry where our hosts will be West Midlands Branch. Dates: During the weekend Friday to Sunday 23rd - 25th April 2004.